DEBENHA'MS

ONE WELBECK STREET LONDON W1G 0AA TELEPHONE 020 7408 4444 www.debenhams.com

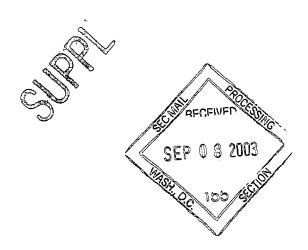


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2 September 2003

Securities & Exchange Commission 450 5th Street N.W Judiciary Plaza Washington D.C. 20549 USA



Dear Sirs

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 12g 3-2(b) of the Securities Exchange Act 1934 ("The Act"), I enclose an announcement that was filed with the London Stock Exchange on 2 September 2003.

The enclosed material shall not be deemed "filed" with the Commission or otherwise subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Act.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Carne

Manager - Secretariat Services

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Attached:

Debenhams plc – Trading Statement September 2003.

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Company TIDM Debenhams PLC

Headline

DEB Trading Statement 07:00 2 Sep 2003

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(BW) (DEBENHAMS) (DEB) Trading Statement

Business Editors UK REGULATORY NEWS

LONDON--(BUSINESS WIRE) -- Sep. 02, 2003--

Debenhams plc ('Debenhams') trading statement

For the 26 weeks to Saturday 30 August 2003, total sales were up 7.9% with like for like sales up 3.9%. For the full year to 30 August 2003 total sales were up 6.7% with like for like sales up 3.7%. The gross margin for the 26 weeks to Saturday 30 August 2003 was up by 0.7 percentage points and for the full year to 30 August 2003 was up by 0.4 percentage points.

Belinda Earl, Chief Executive of Debenhams, commented:

'Since we updated the market in July, Debenhams has continued to trade in line with our expectations. The business is benefitting from our investment in the Debenhams brand and our stores, along with an improving performance in Womenswear. We look forward to the opening of our new stores in Birmingham Bullring this week and in Londonderry later this month, which together will add almost 200,000 square feet of trading space.'

Enquiries: Tulchan Communications

Kirstie Hamilton - 020-7353-4200

Short Name: Debenhams PLC

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CONTACT: Debenhams

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INDUSTRY KEYWORD: RETAIL SOURCE: Debenhams PLC

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